



Flood Control District

of Maricopa County

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PUBLIC MEETING TO PRESENT McMICKEN DAM PROJECT ALTERNATIVES AND DEFINE FLOODING HAZARDS FROM WITTMANN TO WHITE TANKS

SURPRISE, Ariz. (March 21, 2008) – The Flood Control District of Maricopa County (District) has targeted the Northwest Valley in its mission to protect lives and property from the hazards of potential flooding. On April 8, the District will host a public meeting to present the details of two significant projects intended to mitigate flooding hazards affecting thousands of homeowners and tens of millions of dollars' worth of property in Wittmann, and portions of Surprise, Peoria, Buckeye and unincorporated Maricopa County.

The most wide-ranging project to be unveiled is the Wittmann Area Drainage Master Plan (ADMP). This plan is the result of the District's initial 2005 study of a 307-square-mile watershed extending from the Hieroglyphic Mountains on the Maricopa County/Yavapai County border south to the White Tank Mountains.

The ADMP is an example of the District's countywide watershed planning efforts to find non-structural solutions to regional flooding prior to substantial development. The District's initial study identified the types of flooding hazards, delineated floodways and floodplains, and located erosion hazard zones. The ADMP has identified five preliminary flood mitigation alternatives. Public meeting attendees will have the opportunity to review and comment on these alternatives.

In conjunction with the Wittmann ADMP, the McMicken Dam Project seeks to rehabilitate or replace the 10-mile-long earthen dam located within the city of Surprise between Peoria Avenue and Happy Valley Road. Originally built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the mid-1950s to protect Luke Air Force Base and surrounding agricultural land from flooding, the structure now provides additional protection to thousands of homes and numerous commercial properties downstream of the dam in Surprise and Sun City Grand. McMicken Dam is one of the oldest flood retarding structures maintained by the District. The District has identified land subsidence and earth fissuring as two issues which directly affect the dam's long-term ability to maintain flood protection. Both issues are a threat to the dam's aging infrastructure. In response, the District has developed several alternatives for the rehabilitation or replacement of the dam. These alternatives will be presented to the public for review and comment.

The District encourages all interested residents to attend the public meeting to learn more about the projects, talk informally with project team members and participate in shaping the future of their respective communities. The meeting will be conducted on April 8 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Dysart Education Center, 15802 N. Parkview Place, Surprise.

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County is tasked to provide regional flood hazard identification, regulation, remediation, and education to Maricopa County residents so that they can reduce their risk of injury, death, and property damage from flooding, while still enjoying the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains.

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